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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of acquisition media is stored at each of a plurality of in-room systems. A plurality of access-only media is stored at a single head-end system. Each in-room system has access to each of the access-only media. Access to and acquisition of media are recorded at the head-end system and any associated charges for the access and/or acquisition are determined at the head-end system. A free check-out time prior to being charged for an acquisition of media and a free sample time prior to being charged for access to a media are provided. The acquisition media includes devices for storing audio data, such as CDs, DATs, mini discs and cassettes. The access-only media comprises audio data stored on a CD and/or an audio card have memory. The acquisition media may also include devices for storing audio/video data while the access-only media comprises audio/video data.

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